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McINERNEY SHOE STORE
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The job department of the GARDEN ISLAND office turned out some handsome programs for the Fourth of July exercises in Waimanalo and the field meet at the Lihue Park. The program is an artistic piece of three color work and the subject of much admiration.

Miss Florence Deverill of the Hualalai School teaching staff is spending a few days in Makaweli, the guest of Miss Lee.

Mr. R. Ogilvie, representing Dunn's Mercantile Agency returned to Honolulu Friday, after a week's work in compiling the mercantile statistics of Kauai.

LETTER FROM OLD JAPAN

By J. M. Lydgate

The cream of old Japan is to be found in the Ancient Capital, Kyoto and there we have spent a good deal of our time. The city has a population of half a million or so and I should judge that there is about a temple and a quarter apiece all around. After you have seen half a dozen of them your soul loathes them as the children of Israel did manna, at least mine does and I have learned to scent them from afar and flee as from the touch of plague. They are mostly musty, frowzy old affairs, full of trumpety and gewgaws, and pervaded by an inevitable odor of ancient incense, which may be very welcome to the Gods, but which is very nauseating to me. In most of these temples there is a striking lack of dignity and of all else that ministers to inspiration and religious up, but a fact that is still further emphasized by the effort, in many places, to turn them to commercial account by means of cheap catch-penny schemes which obtrude upon the attention of the visitor.

Far more interesting to my mind is the life in the streets. The shops are usually about the size of an ordinary bath-room, very low in the ceiling, and narrow in the beam, with all the goods on the threshold, a stock so small that a few dollars would buy out the whole establishment. Each shop confines itself as a rule, to a single narrowly specialized product which is often times manufactured on the spot, on a very small scale. The streets are narrow and congested in proportion.

Up and down these narrow streets, throngs a busy earnest crowd, in all kinds of strange costumes, buying all kinds of strange products. Some are afoot, some in rick shaws, some in the coarsest of garb, some in the richest of silks. The dandy lady in paint and powder, jostled by the rough laborer drawing a load of tiles or a towering pile of bamboo baskets. Strange cries fall on the ear as a hurrying rick shaw man seeks a passage, or a peripatetic vegetable man cries his wares.

As we wander through these streets, absorbed in the novelties about us, we forget that we ourselves are the greatest wonders there, and are gradually drawing a staring, wondering crowd which hangs on our heels with now and then a critical comment, but mostly in attentive silence as though we were performing bears and they might lose some important act of the show. There are very few resident foreigners in Kyoto, and they haven't yet become familiar figures to the common people.

One of the principal charms of Japan is the National Scenery, and it is always a delight to take a day off in the country. One of the interesting trips adjacent to Kyoto is the descent of the Hodzu River, which is like running the St. Lawrence rapids, on a small scale.

A suitable boat and boatmen are secured in the quiet water above and casting off we drift slowly to the swifter current down which we shoot through a series of foaming swirling rapids, beset with threatening rocks, from which we are warded off by the long poles of

the deft boatmen.

At times the pliable boat grounds and scrapes, barely slides over some ledge or reef, but before we have time to hold our breath we are over it and in deep water again. When there is time and quiet for it, the retiring mountain walls of the river, rich in flower and foliage, challenge attention and interest.

Another interesting trip is that on Lake Biwa a few miles away beyond the mountains. We reach the lake by rail and there take a small steamer on which we are honored, at the cost of 2 cents apiece, with chairs on which we may sit on the forward deck, the Japanese passenger sitting on the floor. On this little steamer we make the circuit of the lake, stopping every mile or two at primitive village landings where a passenger or two embark, or a bundle of bamboo baskets is put ashore. At one point a Yale-Harvard boat race is in progress—one crew in red and the other in green with attendant steamer's uniforms launch etc. and a great demonstration of flags, fireworks, band and soda water—a little sake perhaps—as the Reds come in ahead. We leave them to their rejoicing and pass on to the entrance of the famous Biwa Lake Canal which pierces the mountains and constitutes a busy thoroughfare to Kyoto 6 or 8 miles away. For a considerable portion of the distance the canal passes under the mountain range, and the traffic is carried on in an Egyptian darkness, only emphasized by the tiny lights, set too far apart to be even distant neighbors. Into this darkness we shot as into Dante's Inferno whose impressive portal almost breathed the warning "A Blandon hope ye who enter here." Borne on the current we swept downwards keeping close to the left wall, our boatman constantly crying out a warning to up coming boats which hugged the other wall and were pulled up hand over hand along a wire cable. The infrequent lights as we passed them gave the wierdest and most beautiful lavender and purple effects on the black water and gave an added touch of the uncanny to the wierd cries of the boatmen.

We were, perhaps, half an hour in this tunnel—it seemed half a life time—but we would not have missed it for the world and we don't want to go through any more. Emerging into the light of day the canal skirts the mountain slopes, overlooking the country below, and at length terminates in the heights above Kyoto, where a drop of about 300 ft. generates electric power to supply the city and operate an incline railway by which the boats are raised and lowered to and from the canal.

Hon. Geo. N. Wilcox was a returning passenger on the all Friday morning.

Chester Doyle, who was reported to have been kid-napped by a Japanese Sampan, has been located and was sent home on last Friday's Kinan.

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